

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 07932 062336Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----071133Z 060501 /41

R 061830Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8092  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T BONN 07932

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UR, GW, WB  
SUBJECT: FALIN ON FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS

REFS: (A) BONN 7361; (B) BERLIN 5857; (C) BONN 7002

1. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION AT A SOCIAL OCCASION ON  
MAY 3, SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN WAS DOWNBEAT ON SOVIET-  
FRG RELATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO  
BONN.

2. FALIN SAID VAN WELL'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW HAD  
PRODUCED "NOTHING CONSTRUCTIVE." HE CONFIRMED THAT  
GENSCHER WAS EXPECTED IN MOSCOW IN JUNE, BUT DOUBTED  
THAT THIS VISIT WOULD RESULT IN MUCH FORWARD MOVEMENT.  
HE DID NOT MENTION BONDARENKO'S RECENT VISIT HERE  
(REF A). AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY, FALIN COMPLAINED OF  
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CONTINUING ANTI-SOVIET POLEMICS IN THE FRG PRESS,  
ALTHOUGH HE GRUDGINGLY ACKNOWLEDGED THESE HAD LESSENED  
SOMEWHAT IN RECENT MONTHS.

3. WHEN I INQUIRED ABOUT THE DATE FOR BREZHNEV'S VISIT  
TO BONN, FALIN INDICATED THIS HAD NOT BEEN FIXED AND  
HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER OR WHEN IT WOULD BE. HE SAID

THE VISIT WOULD DEPEND ON THE STATE OF SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS AND "WORLD DEVELOPMENTS" IN GENERAL. ON BOTH COUNTS, HE MADE CLEAR HE WAS NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC.

4. COMMENT: IN RECENT MONTHS FALIN HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY SOUR IN HIS OUTLOOK ON SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS, AND ABOVE REMARKS FIT THIS PATTERN.

5. WE ARE NOT SURE, HOWEVER, WHETHER FALIN'S ATTITUDE REFLECTS GENUINE SOVIET THINKING OR REFLECTS HIS OWN FEELING THAT HE IS OUT OF THINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE RECENT BONDARENKO VISIT TO BONN, FALIN COMPLAINED OPENLY THAT HE HAD LEARNED OF THE VISIT FROM THE GERMANS RATHER THAN FROM HIS OWN MINISTRY IN MOSCOW.

6. OTHER MATERIAL WE ARE PICKING UP HERE SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN IMPROVED MOSCOW-BONN RELATIONS DESPITE THE OBVIOUS HURDLES, AND THAT SUCH AN INTEREST IS NOT DEPENDENT ON CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN WASHINGTON/MOSCOW RELATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, A POLITICAL JOURNALIST HERE TOLD US THAT HE GOT AN INTRIGUING REACTION WHEN HE RECENTLY TEASED A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER WITH A REMARK THAT GENSCHER WAS INVITED TO MOSCOW BECAUSE OF US-SOVIET SALT DIFFICULTIES: THE SOVIET NOT ONLY AGREED BUT SAID "IF US RELATIONS DETERIORATE, WE STILL HAVE TO WORK WITH THE FRG."

STOESSEL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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